



## **COLUMBUS CITY COUNCIL**

### **Agenda Highlights for March 9, 2009**

#### **For More Information:**

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**IMPROVING TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS:** The Freeway Management System (FMS) acts as the nerve center for the greater metropolitan transportation system in Columbus. From its downtown location in the city's Transportation Management Center, workers monitor road conditions and delays, routing cars, trucks and buses around potential problems. *Ordinance 0314-2009*, sponsored by Public Service and Transportation Committee chair [Hearcel F. Craig](#), will modify and extend the existing agreement for the FMS with the Ohio Department of Transportation. The legislation authorizes the appropriation and expenditure of \$172,000 within the General Government Grant Fund for costs related to staffing the center and extends the current agreement through June 30, 2009.

**SUPPORTING HI-TECH COMPANIES:** City Council is scheduled to continue supporting one of Columbus' best assets in TechColumbus, an internationally acclaimed small business incubator. Created as a non-profit organization dedicated to accelerating the growth of high tech firms, TechColumbus helps provide the infrastructure and other support services businesses need in their incipient stages. *Ordinance 0243-2009*, sponsored by Development Committee chair [Andrew J. Ginther](#), will commit \$188,000 to the Entrepreneurial Signature Program, a key component in TechColumbus' business development effort to attract and grow new high-technology businesses. This allocation represents the second year of City Council's financial commitment to help TechColumbus secure \$15 million in state grants.

**PROTECTING GREEN SPACE:** Preserving valuable green space in Columbus is the goal of City Council, as Recreation and Parks Committee chair [Priscilla R. Tyson](#) sponsors *ordinance 0275-2009* to accept a Clean Ohio grant in the amount of \$310,000. The funding will be used to acquire property in the Alum Creek corridor to preserve the wetlands habitat and maintain a natural buffer in the flood plain to aid in flood abatement. Letters of support were submitted by the Friends of Alum Creek and Tributaries (FACT) watershed group and the Central Ohio Greenways Committee.

**BUILDING BETTER NEIGHBORHOODS:** The Community Development Collaborative of Greater Columbus (CDCGC) works with dozens of community development groups to help build stronger neighborhoods. *Ordinance 0269-2009*, sponsored by Health, Housing & Human Services Committee chair [Charleta B. Tavares](#), will authorize a contract with CDCGC for its role as a funding intermediary, facilitator of training, and builder of organizational capacity for community development corporations (CDC) and community housing development organizations (CHDO). The funding represents a commitment from Columbus to support the long-term goal of building viable organizations that can significantly contribute to neighborhood revitalization. The CDCGC also contracts with the Affordable Housing Trust for Columbus and Franklin County to provide administrative support. The amount of the contract will be \$45,000.

**WATER DISTRIBUTION IMPROVEMENTS:** Utilities Committee chair [Eileen Y. Paley](#) is sponsoring *ordinance 0203-2009* that is the first step toward the planned construction of 12 water system projects. These capital improvement projects will be financed through the Water Supply Revolving Loan Account (WSRLA) program after the loans are made available in the future. This loan program is jointly administered by the Ohio EPA Division of Drinking and Ground Waters, and the Ohio Water Development Authority (OWDA). The WSRLA program provides below-market interest rate loans for municipal water system improvements.

**MILLER RECOGNIZING WORLD KIDNEY DAY:** Administration Committee chair [A. Troy Miller](#) is sponsoring *resolution 0021X-2009* to declare the month of March as National Kidney Month and March 12, 2009 as World Kidney Day in the city of Columbus. Each year, approximately 2,900 Ohioans are on the waiting list for a kidney transplant. With 26 million Americans suffering from chronic kidney disease and another 20 million at risk, early detection and treatment could result in fewer people requiring dialysis treatments.

**PROCLAMATION DAY:** The annual Proclamation Day ceremony at City Hall is one of the highlights of the year for the Irish-American community in Columbus. Council President [Michael C. Mentel](#) invites all Columbus residents to attend the event celebrating Irish-American heritage and the significant contributions the community has made throughout our city's history. The 2009 Proclamation Day ceremony will take place *Friday, March 13, 2009 in City Council Chambers beginning at 10:30 am.*

*Please note there are no council meetings scheduled for March 16 and March 23, 2009. The next council meeting will be held Monday, March 30, 2009.*